



News to Use January 2006

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Legislative advocacy materials

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has developed a 2006 Legislative Advocacy Toolkit that includes a wide range of materials for use in communicating with policy leaders and others about postsecondary and adult education legislative priorities for the 2006 Kentucky General Assembly. Several items of interest to adult educators are available on [KYAE's Web site](#). To access the full toolkit, including a PowerPoint presentation and fact sheets by county, visit the [CPE Web site](#).

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Federal funding update

President Bush has signed into law the FY06 labor, health and human services appropriations bill. This ends the process that started on February 7, 2006, when the president's budget proposed a 66 percent cut in adult education funding. As a result of advocacy efforts across the nation, the U.S. Congress restored all but 1 percent of that funding. The 1 percent cut from the FY05 appropriation came as the result of a funding decrease for most government agencies. A special thanks

goes to adult educators and students who contacted their congressional representatives and senators in support of adult education funding.

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Broadcast campaign, GED materials

Radio and TV ads promoting GED attainment began airing January 2 on stations across the Commonwealth. The ads feature KYAE's toll-free number, and callers are being transferred to local programs or given local contact information. Due to the heavy volume of calls expected during the campaign, KYAE is asking providers to avoid using the toll-free number during January. Please use (502) 573-5114.

Printing of a general adult education brochure and flyers and posters promoting GED is underway. The print materials, to be used for student recruitment and in working with employers, will be shipped directly to county adult education programs. KYAE will notify providers when the shipments have started.

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Initial literacy survey results released

The 2003 Kentucky Assessment of Adult Literacy (KAAL) released December 15 by the Council on Postsecondary Education-Kentucky Adult Education reveals that the literacy of Kentucky adults is similar to the literacy of adults across the country. Kentucky was one of six states to invest in individual state reports from the National Center on Education Statistics in conjunction with the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL).

Information about the KAAL and NAAL is available on [KYAE's Web site](#) – look in the far right-hand column under “What’s New.” In spring 2006, KYAE expects to receive a comprehensive report that will provide more detailed findings about the literacy of Kentucky's adults, including literacy across workplace, family and community settings, as well as health literacy. Results for each Kentucky county are expected to be available spring 2006.

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ESL/CivicsLink Web conference

KET will present a Web conference to introduce ESL/CivicsLink at 2 p.m. ET January 9. **Adult educators who wish to participate should e-mail Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov.**

ESL/CivicsLink is an online professional development service from PBS LiteracyLink and KET. KYAE has purchased a statewide license for ESL/CivicsLink and is making it available via KYVAE in February. ESL/CivicsLink was jointly developed by PBS LiteracyLink, the Jefferson County Adult Education program, the National Center for Adult Literacy at the University of Pennsylvania and KLRN-TV, San Antonio, Texas.

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National Conference on Family Literacy

Again this year, KYAE will pay the \$385 early registration conference fee (this does not include special sessions) for one KYAE-funded family literacy program staff from each county to attend the National Conference on Family Literacy, sponsored by the National Center for Family Literacy, at the Galt House in Louisville, March 19-21.

Submit the name of the individual to attend the conference and the county name to Amanda.Walker@ky.gov by February 23, 2006. Early registration must be completed before February 24, 2006. The registration brochure is available at <http://www.famlit.org/Conference/index.cfm> . For KYAE-funded participants, check "My registration is funded by Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE)."

Programs sending additional staff members must pay for those individuals' registration from the program's PD allocation. Professional development allocations may be used for travel, hotel accommodations and meals not covered during the conference in compliance with KYAE policy. Late fees and "no show" charges may not be paid with KYAE funds.

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Free graduate class at WKU

Dr. Pam Petty from Western Kentucky University is offering a free graduate-level class, "Diagnostic Reading Procedures," on Tuesdays evenings January 24-April 25. The class is limited to 12 adult educators. For more information, click on the following link: <http://www.pampetty.com/dgflyer.htm>.

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KEMTP valuable math tool

The Kentucky Early Mathematics Testing Program (KEMTP) is a valuable math resource for adult students transitioning to postsecondary education. At the KEMTP Web site (www.mathclass.org), students can take a 25-question test to assess their math levels and pinpoint their weak areas. The goal of KEMTP is to

help students prepare for college-level algebra and avoid taking developmental math.

Dr. Steve Newman of Northern Kentucky University presented KEMTP at provider meetings in May 2005. To request a KEMTP password, contact Dr. Newman at newman@nku.edu or (859) 572-5332.

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Restaurant project update

Businessman Joe Graviss of Versailles initiated a McDonald's-based GED promotion in Franklin and Woodford Counties late last summer. For five weeks, more than 180,000 McDonald's customers in three restaurants saw motivational tray liners and/or bag stuffers that profiled successful Kentucky GED graduates with the theme "GED: Prove Yourself." Both counties report an increase in enrollment over the same period last year.

Information about replicating the project, including samples of tray liners and bag stuffers, is available at [KYAE's Web site](#).

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Grant-writing workshop

The Grant Institute will offer a grant-writing workshop at the University of Louisville-Shelby Campus February 15-17. More information is available at www.thegrantinstitute.com or (888) 824-4424.

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GED graduates in the Amazon spotlight

Three GED graduates recently hired by Amazon.com through the Go, Earn, Do – GED initiative were spotlighted in a Council on Postsecondary Education [news release](#). Through the initiative, Amazon reimburses test fees up to \$40 and provides an Amazon.com gift card for GED graduates in a 20-county area surrounding Taylor County. The initiative will soon expand to eight counties in the Fayette County area.

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New KYVL passwords

New Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL) passwords have been implemented. As usual, there will be an overlap between old passwords and new ones. The old ID/password will be inactive at the end of January. The new ID/password for adult educators follows:

ID: kyvae

Password: davis12

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Correction – funding opportunity

In the December 2005 issue of *News to Use*, KYAE informed adult educators of a U.S. Department of Labor grant opportunity for serving high-risk youth and adults. Although the U.S. Department of Education provided information about the grant, it is not an active grant. KYAE apologizes for any inconvenience caused by disseminating this information.

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Valuable links

The [Literacy List](#) is a large online collection of free adult education and ESL Web sites, listservs and other Web resources for students and adult educators.

An [online database](#) of assessments was recently added to the NRS Web site. The new NRS Assessment Database contains basic information on assessments currently used in the field of adult education, including a narrative summary, test use and purpose, test specifications and features, and contact/ordering information. Please note that the tests included in the database are not necessarily approved for use by the U.S. Department of Education for use in the NRS; however, the information is provided as a resource to states to research information about available tests. Adult educators may recommend tests for inclusion in this database by e-mail as explained on the NRS Assessment Database Web page.

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